

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A paint container sealing lid ~~for sealing a container~~ comprising:

a base, said base having a first surface, a second surface, and a continuous edge;  
a hatch within said base, said hatch having a first side, a second side, a first end,  
and as second end, wherein at least said first side includes at least one slot for holding at  
least one tool, said hatch having dimensions sufficient for receiving at least one tool;

a lip adjacently attached to said continuous edge, said lip having an indentation for enveloping a rim of said container;

a flexible strap ~~surrounding~~ proximal said lip, said strap having a first end and a second end;

a fastening mechanism attached to said first end and said second end of said strap;  
wherein said [said] fastening mechanism cinches said flexible strap into a water-tight configuration ~~around said lip and~~ said strap holding said lip against said container upon closing of said fastening mechanism.

2. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein said lip is a sealed lip.

3. (Original) The lid of claim 2 further comprising a holding mechanism wherein said holding mechanism holds said strap next to said sealed lip.

4. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 3, wherein said holding mechanism is a series of loops attached to said sealed lip, said series of loops receiving said strap.

5. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 3, wherein said holding mechanism is a tube attached to said sealed lip, said tube receiving said strap.

6. (Original) The lid of claim 3, wherein said holding mechanism is said sealed lip, said sealed lip being hollow and receiving said strap.

7. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said lip is an unsealed lip.

8. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 7, wherein said strap is attached to said base.
9. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said base is comprised of a rigid material.
10. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said lip is comprised a plastic material.
11. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said strap is comprised of nylon.
12. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said strap is comprised of metal.
13. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein said fastening mechanism is a toggle latch.
14. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said fastening mechanism is a buckle.
15. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, wherein said fastening mechanism is a hook and loop fastener.
16. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, further comprising a hasp attached to said strap.
17. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, further comprising a suction vent and pressure release valve within said base, wherein said suction vent allows air to be removed from said container to create a vacuum within said container and said pressure release valve releases said vacuum created by said suction vent.
18. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 1, further comprising a pour opening and an air vent within said base.
19. (Withdrawn) The lid of claim 18, further comprising a pour spout fitting within said pour opening.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently amended) The lid of claim [21] 1, wherein said at least one tool is a painting tool.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The lid of claim [21] 1, wherein said at least one slot is three slots.

26. (Currently amended) The lid of claim [21] 1, further comprising a hatch cover covering said hatch.

27. (Original) The lid of claim 26, wherein said hatch cover is attached to said hatch by a hinge at said second side of said hatch.

28. (Original) The lid of claim 27, further comprising a removable hinge cover.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The lid of claim 26, further comprising a fastening mechanism attached to said first side of said hatch and to a side of said hatch cover corresponding to said first side of said hatch, wherein said fastening mechanism coordinates to securely fasten said hatch cover over said hatch.

31. (Currently amended) The lid of claim 26, wherein said hatch cover ~~includes at least one opening corresponding to said at least one slot for accommodating~~ accommodates said at least one tool.

32. (Original) The lid of claim 26, further comprising a flexible gasket attached to said second surface of said base beneath said first side of said hatch.

33. (Original) The lid of claim 32, wherein said gasket includes at least one slit corresponding to each of said at least one slot of said first side of said hatch, wherein said at least one slit receives said at least tool preventing air from entering said container through said at least one slot in said hatch.

34. (Currently amended) A method of storing a paintbrush or paint roller comprising: sealing a container with a lid ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a base, said base having a first surface, a second surface, and a continuous edge;

a lip adjacently attached to said continuous edge, said lip having an indentation for enveloping a rim of said container;

a flexible strap ~~surrounding~~ proximal said lip, said strap having a first end and a second end;

a fastening mechanism attached to said first and second end;

a hatch within said base, said hatch having a first side, a second side, a first end, and a second end, wherein at least said first side includes at least one slot for receiving at least one handle of a paintbrush or paint roller, said hatch having dimensions sufficient to receive an entire painting tool;

a hatch cover covering said hatch, said hatch cover including at least one opening corresponding to said at least one slot for accommodating said at least one handle of a paintbrush or paint roller;

a flexible gasket attached to said second surface of said base beneath said first side of said hatch, said gasket including at least one slit corresponding to said at least one slot of said first side of said hatch, wherein said at least one slit receives said at least one handle preventing air from entering said container through said at least one slot in said hatch;

cinching said flexible strap into a water-tight configuration ~~around said lip and said~~ said strap holding said lip against said container upon closing of said fastening mechanism;

inserting at least ~~one handle from a~~ paint brush or paint roller through said hatch and inserting at least one handle from said paint brush or paint roller within said at least one slot of said first side of said hatch and said corresponding at least one slit within said gasket; and

closing said hatch cover over said hatch;

wherein, said at least one paintbrush or paint roller is suspended from said lid within said container; and

wherein, said container is sealed in an air-tight configuration.

35. (New) A paint container sealing lid for sealing a container comprising:
- a base, said base having a first surface, a second surface, and a continuous edge;
  - a hollow lip adjacently attached to said continuous edge, said lip having an indentation for enveloping a rim of said container;
  - a flexible strap passing through said hollow lip, said strap having a first end and a second end;
  - a fastening mechanism attached to said first end and said second end of said strap;

wherein said fastening mechanism cinches said flexible strap into a water-tight configuration, said strap holding said lip against said container upon closing of said fastening mechanism.

36. (New) The lid of claim 35, further comprising a hatch within said base, said hatch having a first side, a second side, a first end, and a second end, wherein at least said first side includes at least one slot for receiving at least one tool.

37. (New) The lid of claim 36, wherein said at least one tool is a painting tool.

38. (New) The lid of claim 36, wherein said at least one slot is three slots.

39. (New) The lid of claim 36, further comprising a hatch cover covering said hatch.